

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 02836 231333 Z

47

ACTION EUR-25

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DEPT PLEASE PASS TO USAMB OAS

POUCHED INFO TO ALL ARA CAPITALS

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TAGS: OCON SP

SUBJECT: IBERO- AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PLANNING MINISTERS

REF: MADRID 2 787

1. WITH MUCH FANFARE THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT INAUGURATED ON MAY 21 THE IBERO- AMERICAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS CONFERENCE WHICH IS BEING ATTENDED BY CABINET AND SUB- CABINET LEVEL PLANNING OFFICIALS FROM 20 " IBERO- AMERICAN" COUNTRIES AND 12 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THIS CONFERENCE, WHICH WILL RUN UNTIL MAY 25, WAS ORGANIZED BY THE GOS PLANNING MINISTER LAUREANO LOPEZ RODO AND BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA (ECLA). THE OPENING SESSION WAS ATTENDED BY 11 SPANISH MINISTERS, VICE PRESIDENT CARRERO BLANCO AND PRINCE JUAN CARLOS, WHO DELIVERED THE OPENING SPEECH TO THE ASSEMBLED DIGNITARIES. LONGER SPEECHES WERE DELIVERED BY FOREIGN MINISTER GREGORIO LOPEZ BRAVO AND PLANNING MINISTER LAUREANO LOPEZ RODO . THROUGH ALL SPEECHES BY THE GOS FIGURES RAN THE COMMON THREAD OF SPAIN' S COMPLETE IDENTITY WITH LATIN AMERICA, THE ALL- ENCOMPASSING TERM BEING APPLIED TO THEM ALL:

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PAGE 02 MADRID 02836 231333 Z

IBERO- AMERICANS.

2. PRINCE JUAN CARLOS IN HIS BRIEF SPEECH STRESSED THE NEED FOR A " JOINT POLICY . . . TO MUTALLY HELP OURSELVES IN THE CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE IBERO- AMERICAN PEOPLES, INSPIRED BY A COMMON CHRISTIAN CONCEPTION OF LIFE AND IN THE IMPERATIVES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE THAT THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES DEMAND".

3. FOREIGN MINISTER LOPEZ BRAVO READ THE LITANY OF SPANISH " ASSISTANCE" TO LATIN AMERICA ALONG WITH HIS PERIPATETIC TRAVELS TO 17 IBERO- AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN 1971. HE SAID THAT BETWEEN 1960 AND 1970 SPAIN PROVIDED \$1 BILLION IN FINANCIAL FLOWS TO THE REGION (THIS REPRESENTS AN APPROXIMATION OF THE TOTAL OF OFFICIAL GOS AND PRIVATE EXPORT CREDIT OVER THE PERIOD). THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO ALLUDED TO HIS PLAN FOR THE " IBERO- AMERICAN MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISE" WHICH HAS YET TO GET OFF THE GROUND. HE CITED THE GOS INTENTION TO ESTABLISH " GLOBAL AND SPECIAL" LINKS WITH LAFTA AS WELL AS TO PURSUE ITS INTEREST IN THE " SUB- REGIONAL" ANDEAN GROUP, THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET, AND THE IDB.

4. LOPEZ RODO OPENED BY SAYING THAT " IBERO- AMERICAN NATIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC CONSTITUTE AN AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY". HE WENT ON TO CITE VARIOUS STATISTICAL MEASURES OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS COMMUNITY IN BOTH GEOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC TERMS AS IF IT WERE ONE BLOC NOT UNLIKE THE EEC BUT WITH THE ADDED ADVANTAGE OF HAVING THE SAME CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND MENTALITY. THE LARGE BULK OF HIS SPEECH WAS GIVEN OVER TO PHILOSOPHICAL AND HISTORICAL RHETORIC CONCERNING THE SPANISH DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE, AND ITS GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS, IMPLYING THAT IT COULD SERVE AS A MODEL FOR OTHERS. HE PROPOSED A SORT OF " MAGNA CARTA" FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE IBERO- AMERICAN COUNTRIES THAT WOULD " FIND INSPIRATION IN THE PRINCIPLES THAT FRATERNALLY UNITE THEM" AND THAT " RECOGNIZES AS BEING FUNDAMENTAL TO THIS THE PLANNING FOR THE WELFARE OF MAN AND THE BETTERING OF HIS LIVING CONDITIONS". HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT SPAIN WAS DISPOSED TO FACILITATE TOWARDS THIS END ANNUAL EXPORT CREDITS OF \$100 MILLION OVER THE NORMAL LEVEL OF SUCH CREDITS WHICH WOULD BE TARGETED ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THIS WOULD BE A CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 02836 231333 Z

DEMONSTRATION OF SPAIN'S " POLICY OF SOLIDARITY WITH ITS BROTHER PEOPLES IN IBERO- AMERICA".

5. ECLA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ENRIQUE IGLESIAS IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID THAT " IDEOLOGICAL OBSTACLES HAVE DISAPPEARED. . . (AND THAT) AT PRESENT THE CHALLENGE OF PLANNING IS CENTERED IN INTEGRATING IT WITH THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL (ASPECTS)

IN ORDER TO FACE THE SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS ADJUST TO INTERNATIONAL CHANGES".

6. RAUL PREBISCH MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT SAYING THAT SPAIN'S DEVELOPMENT OFFERS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR CO- OPERATION. HE REFERRED TO THE NEW WORLD STRATEGY OF ECONOMIC BLOCS IN WHICH THE U. S. HAS LOST ITS TRADITIONAL PREPONDERANCE. " IN THIS NEW SITUATION, HE REPORTEDLY SAID, IBERO- AMERICA DESIRES TO ASSOCIATE WITH ALL (COUNTRIES) AND IN THIS RESPECT SPAIN COULD BE THE PATH TO AN OPENING TOWARDS EUROPE". REFERRING TO THE NEED TO REPLACE CONFRONTATION WITH CONSTRUCTION IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CONFLICT SETTLEMENT, PREBISCH REPORTEDLY CITED AS A DESIRABLE EXAMPLE THE COLLABORATION OF SPAIN AND CHILE.

7. COMMENT: HIGH- FLOWN PHRASES ASIDE, ALL THAT SPAIN HAS OFFERED TO DO IS SELL SOME MORE OF ITS PRODUCTS ON NON- CONCESSIONAL EXPORT CREDIT TERMS. ONE DOES NOT NEED TO BE AN IBERO- AMERICAN BROTHER OR PHILANTHROPICALLY INCLINED TO DO THIS . THE POLITE BUT NON- COMMITTAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF THE LATIN AMERICANS RE THE SPANISH EMBRACE PROBABLY REFLECT THEIR PERCEPTION OF THIS FACT. FURTHERMORE, THE TUTELARY BIG BROTHER ROUTINE PROBABLY GRATES MORE THAN IT INGRATIATES, WHICH IS SOMETHING THE SPANISH HAVE APPARENTLY YET TO PERCEIVE. WHILE THE GOS SPEAKERS CONTINUALLY USED THE TERM IBERO- AMERICAN, THE VISITORS JUST AS POINTEDLY TENDED TO AVOIDED THE TERM AND USUALLY REFERRED TO THEMSELVES AS LATIN- AMERICANS.
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